GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1754
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
INCREASE IN FLOOD PRONE AREAS
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area prone to floods has doubled in the country in the Eleventh Five Year Plan as compared to the First Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the effect of construction of dams and barrages on flood control;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) Specific information for making such a comparison is not available. As per the report of Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) − 1980, the area liable to floods in the country has been assessed as 40 million hectares; which was reassessed as 45.36 million hectares by the Working Group on Water Resources for the XI Five Year Plan (2007-12) on the basis of report from the State Governments.

(c) & (d) The flood management being a State subject, the matter regarding assessment of the effect of construction of dams and barrage on flood control falls under the purview of respective State Governments and looked after by them. However, various expert committees/ Groups on flood management viz., RBA − 1980 and Task Force on Flood Management/ Erosion Control − 2004 have in general recommended that dams provide long term solutions for flood control.

(e) The Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Governments for undertaking flood management works in critical areas. During XI Plan, the Cabinet has approved `in principle` a scheme namely `Flood Management Programme` under state sector with an estimated cost of Rs.8,000 crore for providing central assistance to the state governments for undertaking flood management works, in critical areas.